



Minutes

Name of meeting	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron (Chairman) John Howe, Gary Taylor, Chris Welsford
Co-opted Members (voting)	David Miller, Sara Sheath (Parent Governor Representatives)
Cabinet Members	Cllrs Dawn Cousins, David Pugh
Officers Present	Margaret Dennison, Roger Edwardson, Janet Newton, Colin Peak, Paul Thistlewood,
Apologies	Tony Blackshaw, Urszula Topp (Diocesan Representatives)

17. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [13 October 2010](#) be confirmed.

18. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Chris Welsford declared a personal interest in Minute 19, as he had three children in the education system and was previously the Chairman of Standards Not Tiers and was still an interested party in the organisation.

Mrs Sara Sheath declared a personal interest in Minutes 19, 20, 21 and 22 as she was a member of Children's Trust Board, chair of the Admissions Forum, a member of the Schools Forum, a Local Authority Governor at Christ the King, a Community Governor at Shanklin Community School and had children at Christ the King and Shanklin C of E Primary School.

Mr David Miller declared a personal interest in Minute 19, as he had children at Northwood Primary School, where his wife was also a Governor, and at Solent Middle School. He was a parent governor of Solent Middle School, and a member of Cowes Community Partnership associated with the Cowes Pathfinder Partnership.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minute 19, as was a Governor of Weston Community School, St Saviours School, West Wight Middle School, West Wight Nursery and a Committee Member of West Wight Youth Club.

19. School Re-organisation

The panel considered the progress report detailing the progress on key areas connected with the school re-organisation project.

The following issues were highlighted :-

- Build profile
 - The supply chain for the SCAPE framework included a large number of local firms and there was also a key performance indicator for island labour and apprenticeships.
 - There was a separate programme for works being undertaken to those schools coming within the responsibility of the Diocesan Authorities.
 - Future phases would be dependent upon the availability of appropriate funding.
 - The target start date for the Newport 6th form consolidation at Nodehill would be July 2011 rather than 5 January 2012 with the finish date still to be confirmed.
 - It had been possible to continue to provide accommodation for pre school groups at existing locations
- Resources Transfer
 - This included minibuses and these would be allocated accordingly.
- Transport
 - A positive meeting had been held between officers and Southern Vectis relating to the issues that had arisen with the new school lift contract. The Managing Director had offered to meet with the panel to discuss the concerns that it had previously expressed.
 - The current contract with Southern Vectis was for a two year period and this did not give the company a sufficient period to consider enhancing its fleet so to provide a more effective service.
 - In future any difficulties or complaints about the school lift were to be directed immediately to Southern Vectis so that they could be investigated.
 - The panel had concerns that parents were in the process of expressing a preference for school admissions but were not fully aware of the situation about the availability of discretionary transport which could influence their preference.
 - Transport issues connected with out of school activities were still being resolved and the proposed ID cards were not yet in place.

- Admissions
 - The admission arrangements for year 6 pupils had been revised following a decision by the schools adjudicator. The final numbers and destination of pupils would be known in January 2011 so it was not known if these accorded with previous assumptions.
 - The panel queried the responsibility for transport arrangements for Middle School pupils attending their taster day at their intended Secondary School.

- Communications Strategy
 - Although a number of comments arising from members of the panel had been taken into account within the updated strategy there were still some issues that required amendment.

RESOLVED :

- (a) The next monitoring report include information about the involvement of local firms in the SCAPE framework;
- (b) Arrangements be made for the panel to visit some of the sites where building works are being undertaken to view these and also the demountable facilities being utilised;
- (c) Details of future funding arrangements for capital works for schools be reported when known;
- (d) Details of planned works by the Diocesan Authorities be included in the next monitoring report;
- (e) Clarification should be made available to parents on the need to take into account the future availability of discretionary transport when considering preferences for school admissions and parents should also be advised of the transport arrangements for September 2011 when admissions have been decided upon.
- (f) An informal meeting be held with the Managing Director of Southern Vectis to discuss school transport;
- (g) Advice be issued to all members, parents and schools that if a difficulty is experienced with the school transport arrangements with Southern Vectis then they should contact the company direct within 24 hours of the incident.
- (h) Details of the admission numbers for year 6 pupils due to transfer to secondary school in 2011, including preferences and anticipated arrangements be circulated to the panel when available;
- (i) Officers ascertain what transport arrangements are being made by middle schools for pupils attending the taster days at their secondary schools and advise the panel accordingly;

- (j) Any member of the panel with comments in relation to the latest communications strategy should be forwarded to the Schools Capital Programme Project Director.

20. **Safeguarding - Ofsted Inspection Action Plan – November 2010**

It was noted that the report had been due to be considered by the cabinet the previous evening but had been deferred until its meeting on 24 January 2011. This would however give the panel an opportunity to offer comments on the content of the action plan before it was approved.

The panel had noted that the role of scrutiny had been highlighted within the inspection report. The leader advised that a review was also being undertaken of the whole scrutiny structure within the council and it was likely that the number of panels would be reduced from four to three but this panel would remain.

Members indicated that they should be fully involved in looking at ways to improve the scrutiny processes for safeguarding and looked after children. This should also include a range of activities aimed at improving understanding of service provision by all stakeholders.

The Strategic Director indicated that it was intended to establish a strategic board to look at safeguarding issues. There was also the view that the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board should be strengthened.

The panel was assured that there was capacity to deal with the workforce development matters raised by the inspection.

With regard to the content of the draft action plan members asked that completion dates be included for actions and that it should be recognised that the lead for an action may not necessarily be an officer.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT the Chairman of the panel should be a member of the proposed Strategic Board on Safeguarding.
- (b) THAT completion dates be shown for all actions and that the word “officer” be deleted from the heading of the third column.
- (c) THAT an informal meeting of the panel be held to discuss the actions to be taken in connection with recommendation 6 of the action plan relating to scrutiny and this include discussions on information sessions for elected members on safeguarding, case studies, and the role of the lead member.

21. [Implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review for Children's Services](#)

The Leader gave a brief overview arising from the debate the previous evening at the Cabinet meeting on the budget and how this would be reflected in the future structure and direction of the Council. It was noted that this would impact upon staffing levels across the authority at all levels. As part of this it was intended to create a new post of Director of Community Wellbeing and Social Care. This would replace the current posts of Strategic Director of Children's Services and Strategic Director of Community Services.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

22. [Quarter 2 Performance Management Report](#)

Members considered the relevant extracts from the performance report for Quarter 2 that came within the remit of the panel. The full report was dealt with by the Cabinet the previous evening.

Aspects of performance related to children's social care would be picked up as part of the Ofsted Inspection Action Plan discussed earlier in the meeting.

With regard to school achievement it had originally been proposed for a more detailed report to be on the agenda for this meeting. However a number of papers were still being validated and the full picture would not be known until early in the New Year.

It was noted that the performance relating to temporary exclusions was being closely monitored and a report submitted to Cabinet on 1 March 2011. The Head of Learning and Achievement advised how the performance in this area was important in also measuring morale in a school and its tolerance to bad behaviour. An area to watch was year 6 in primary schools.

RESOLVED :

THAT a briefing be arranged for the panel on school achievement once all the results had been validated.

23. [Forward Plan](#)

The Panel was advised that the report on the re-organisation of the youth service was still intended to be submitted to the Cabinet on 8 February 2011.

RESOLVED :

THAT the issues on the Forward Plan be noted.

CHAIRMAN